Alternative Credits Towards Graduation

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In order to meet individual student needs and encourage all students to complete their high school education, the Board of Education desires to provide flexibility in the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with law.

With the active involvement of parents/guardians, administrators, teachers, and students, the Board shall adopt alternative means for students to complete the prescribed course of study required for high school graduation. These alternative means shall be made available to students, parents/guardians, and the public.

The Superintendent or designee shall determine whether a student has satisfactorily met alternative means towards graduation. Students may fulfill any course requirement for graduation through the following:

1. Practical demonstration of skills and competencies
    a. Opportunities to demonstrate skills and competencies shall include, but not be limited to, challenging a course through successful completion of a district-developed examination which covers course objectives. The district shall not use results from the General Educational Development test or other state or national tests for this purpose.

2. Supervised work experience or other outside school experience in accordance with Education Code 51760.3 and 5 CCR 1635

3. College Courses for Vocational or Career Technical Education Degree/Certificate Programs

4. Interdisciplinary study

5. Independent study

6. High school level course work taken via correspondence/distance/online learning through an accredited college or university

7. Credit earned at a postsecondary institution
    a. Credit for Dual Enrollment College Courses
    b. Credit for Concurrent/College Early Start taken from CCC/CSU/UC or other accredited colleges and universities.

8. Private instruction in accordance with 5 CCR 1631

9. Correspondence instruction from a California university or college accredited for teacher training in accordance with 5 CCR 1633

10. Military service and training in accordance with 5 CCR 1634

11. To satisfy the district's driver education and training requirement, a program approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles which offers driver education and behind-the-wheel instruction

through a driving school or licensed independent driving instructor in accordance with Vehicle Code 12814.6

12. For credit toward the district's foreign language requirement, foreign language studies successfully completed in a private school in accordance with 5 CCR 1632

Upon receiving advance, written application by the student or their parent/guardian, the Superintendent or designee shall determine whether completion of the proposed alternative means would satisfy course requirements for graduation and what documentation shall be required, if any, to verify the student's successful completion. The Superintendent or designee shall make the final determination as to whether the student's completion of an alternative means is sufficient to satisfy the district's graduation requirements.

As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall determine the grade to be assigned to students for the completion of any of the above alternative means. When a grade is assigned by a private school, postsecondary institution, or other educational institution including schools outside California for completion of coursework, that same grade shall be awarded by the district provided that the Superintendent or designee has determined the alternative course to be substantially equivalent to a district course.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:

STATE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
5 CCR 10070-10075 Work experience education
5 CCR 11500-11508 Regional occupational centers and programs
5 CCR 11520-11523 Proficiency examination and certificate
5 CCR 11700-11705 Independent study
5 CCR 1600-1635 Alternative credit
EDUCATION CODE
35160 Authority of governing boards
35160.1 Broad authority of school districts
48412 Certificate of proficiency
48645.5 Former juvenile court school students; enrollment
48800-48802 Concurrent enrollment in community college
51220 Course of study for grades 7-12
51225.3 High school graduation requirements
51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements
51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates
51440 Credit and granting of diploma to veterans and members of the military service
51740-51741 Authority to provide instruction by correspondence
51745 Independent study
51760-51769.5 Work experience education
52300-52462 Career technical education
CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE
12814.6 Teen driver's act
FEDERAL
UNITED STATES CODES
20 USC 2301-2414 Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

WEBSITES

CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.csba.org/#

California Department of Education http://www.cde.ca.gov/

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